

Abuse hurts at any age  
**Mandated Reporters** can save lives

## Mandated Reporters

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



[Caring.]

# mandated reporters

Any person licensed, certified, or registered by health regulatory boards listed in § 54.1-2503, except persons licensed by the Board of Veterinary Medicine:

- **Board of Audiology and Speech Pathology:** Audiologists; Speech-Language Pathologists; School Speech-Language Pathologists
  - **Board of Counseling:** Licensed Professional Counselors; Certified Substance Abuse Counselors; Counseling Assistants; Certified Rehabilitation Providers; Marriage and Family Therapists; Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioners
  - **Board of Dentistry:** Dentists and Dental Hygienists
  - **Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers:** Funeral Establishments, Services Providers, Directors, and Embalmers; Resident Trainees; Crematories; Surface Transportation and Removal Services; Courtesy Card Holders
  - **Board of Long-Term Care Administrators:** Nursing Home Administrators
  - **Board of Medicine:** Doctors of Medicine, Surgery, Osteopathic Medicine, Podiatry, and Chiropractic; Interns and Residents; University Limited Licensees; Physician Assistants; Respiratory and Occupational Therapists; Radiological Technologists and Technologists Limited; Licensed Acupuncturists; Certified Athletic Trainers
  - **Board of Nursing:** Registered Nurses (RN); Licensed Nurse Practitioners (LNP); Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN); Clinical Nurse Specialists; Certified Massage Therapists; Certified Nurse Aides (CNA)
  - **Board of Optometry:** Optometrists
  - **Board of Pharmacy:** Pharmacists, Pharmacy Interns, and Technicians; Permitted Physicians; Medical Equipment Suppliers; Restricted Manufacturers; Humane Societies; Physicians Selling Drugs; Wholesale Distributors; Warehousemen
  - **Board of Physical Therapy:** Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants
  - **Board of Psychology:** School, Clinical, and Applied Psychologists; Sex Offender Treatment Providers; School Psychologists – Limited
  - **Board of Social Work:** Registered Social Workers; Associate Social Workers; Licensed Social Workers; Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- Any mental health services provider as defined in § 54.1-2400.1
- Any emergency medical services personnel certified by the Board of Health pursuant to § 32.1-111.5
- Any guardian or conservator of an adult
- Any person employed by or contracted with a public or private agency or facility and working with adults in an administrative, supportive, or direct care capacity
- Any person providing full, intermittent or occasional care to an adult for compensation, including but not limited to companion, chore, homemaker and personal care workers
- Any law-enforcement officer



## What Are Mandated Reporters Required to Report?

Mandated reporters are required to report **suspected** abuse, neglect, or exploitation of elders or incapacitated adults.

Reporters should provide the name, age and address or location of the person who is suspected of being abused, and as much information about the abusive situation as possible.



## Other Responsibilities Given to Mandated Reporters:

Mandated Reporters are required to share with the local department of social services records and information related to any report of abuse, neglect, or exploitation regardless of who made the report.

## What Is the Timeframe for Making Reports?

Virginia law §63.2-1606 says that reports should be made “immediately.”

## Is There a Penalty for Failure to Report?

Mandated Reporters who fail to make a report may be fined up to \$500 for the first failure and up to \$1,000 for subsequent failures. The Commissioner of the Department of Social Services shall determine and impose the fine for all mandated reporters except law enforcement.

APS also will refer matters as necessary to the appropriate licensing, regulatory or legal authority for administrative action or criminal investigation.

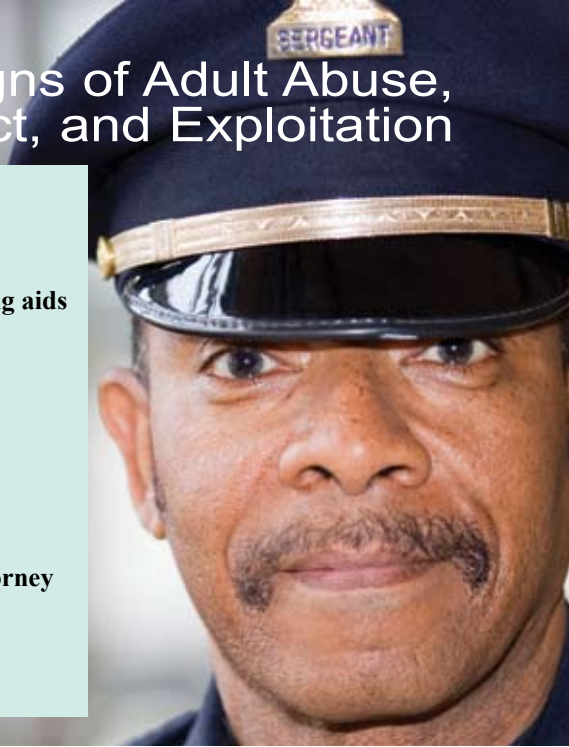
## Who Should be Contacted?

A mandated reporter must make a report to the local department of social services or to the toll-free 24-hour APS Hotline at 1 (888) 832-3858. When sexual abuse, serious bodily injury, disease or death believed to be caused by abuse or neglect, and any criminal activity involving abuse or neglect that places the adult in imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm are suspected, mandated reporters are required to report to both local departments of social services and local law enforcement. Suspicious deaths must be reported to the local medical examiner and law enforcement.



# Some Common Signs of Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

- Burns, welts, scratches, bruises, cuts
- Fractures, dislocations, sprains
- Inappropriate or inadequate clothing
- Lacks needed dentures, glasses, hearing aids or medication
- Lacks needed supervision
- Malnourishment
- Mistrust of others
- Personal belongings are missing
- Property or savings are mismanaged
- Severe anxiety, fearfulness, depression
- Sudden change in will or power of attorney
- Unpaid bills
- Unsanitary or unsafe housing
- Untreated medical condition



# 1 (888) 832-3858

**REPORT SUSPECTED ADULT ABUSE. CALL TODAY.**

## What Rights Do Mandated Reporters Have?

- A person who reports is immune from civil and criminal liability unless the reporter acted in bad faith or with a malicious purpose.
- A person who reports has a right to have his/her identity kept confidential unless consent to reveal his/her identity is given or unless the court orders that the identity of the reporter be revealed.
- A person who reports has a right to hear from the investigating local department of social services confirming that the report was investigated.

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## Adult Services Program

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

